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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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Maharashtra State Specific News

Air Quality MH

Context:

- Pimpri Chinchwad, a city in Maharashtra, has reported **PM2.5 levels**
- It is almost double the safe limit and thus making it one of the most polluted cities in the state.
- Other cities in Maharashtra, including Mumbai and Pune, also exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- The **Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB)** has developed an action plan to address the high pollution levels, which includes controlling vehicular pollution, using dust suppression systems at construction sites, and removing old vehicles.

About Air Quality Index:

- To assess the severity of air pollution, the Air Quality Index (AQI) was developed
- It provides a numerical value that categorizes air quality based on the **concentration of five major air pollutants**:
 1. **Particulate Matter (PM2.5 and PM10)**: These tiny particles can penetrate deep into the lungs, causing respiratory problems, heart disease, and even premature death.
 2. **Ozone (O3)**: This gas can irritate the lungs and eyes, aggravate asthma, and contribute to respiratory infections.
 3. **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)**: This pollutant can damage the lungs and reduce lung function, especially in children and individuals with respiratory conditions.
 4. **Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)**: This gas can irritate the airways, causing coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing.
 5. **Carbon Monoxide (CO)**: This gas reduces the oxygen supply to the body, affecting the heart, brain, and other organs.
- The **AQI ranges from 0 to 500**, with higher values indicating more severe air pollution.



CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD'S AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)	CATEGORY
0-50	Good
51-100	Satisfactory
101-200	Moderate
201-300	Poor
301-400	Very Poor
401-500	Severe

Shivraj Maharaj statue



Context:

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue** unveiled in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.
- This equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been **erected at 41 National Rifle (Maratha LI)** near the India-Pakistan border in Kashmir's Kupwara district.
- MH govt. expressed joy in unveiling of this statue as On October 20, 2023, a grand ceremony marked the arrival of the equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from Mumbai Raj Bhavan.

Mid day meals

Context:

- Government schools in MH are set to diversify their mid-day meal offerings, bringing more nutritious choices to students.
- Children in these schools will now enjoy a broader menu that **includes egg pulav, egg biryani, boiled eggs, and local fruits, in addition to the traditional khichdi.**

About Mid Day Meal Scheme:

- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is **now known as the POSHAN Scheme**
- It is a flagship program of the Government of India that provides **free lunches on working days to children** in **government and government-aided primary and upper primary schools, government-aided Anganwadis, Madrasas, and Maqtabas.**
- The scheme **aims to improve the nutritional status of children, enhance enrollment and attendance** in schools, and **reduce child labor.**



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Shasan Aplya Dari program



In News: 1.5 crore people reap benefits from Maha's govt at your doorstep program, says CM Shinde

- MH govt. announced that 1.5 crore individuals have derived benefits from the government's prominent **Shasan Aplya Dari program**
- It is designed to **deliver government schemes directly to the common people's doorsteps.**
- The Government at Your Doorstep initiative was introduced by the state government in May 2023.

Shasan Aplya Dari program:

- It is a government initiative in Maharashtra that aims to bring government services to the doorsteps of citizens.
- Under the program, government departments will set up camps in rural and urban areas to provide citizens with a variety of services, including:
- **Identity documents**, such as Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, and voter ID cards
- **Social welfare schemes**, such as pension schemes, housing schemes, and education schemes
- **Agriculture and allied services**, such as crop insurance, soil testing, and animal husbandry
- **Healthcare services**, such as vaccination, health checkups, and treatment.

Maha govt to acquire iconic Air India building



Context:

- The Maharashtra government decided on Wednesday to pay Rs 1,601 crore to acquire the iconic Air India building located in Mumbai's Nariman Point.
- The building was **constructed in 1974** on land owned by the state government, which will now use it for its office space.
- After the 2012 fire at Mantralaya, the state secretariat building in south Mumbai, four major departments public health, medical education, water supply and sanitation, and rural development have been operating from GT Hospital.



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